



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Head of Delegation

Washington, June 9, 2014
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The Honorable Devin Nunes
Chairman, Subcommittee on Trade
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I have noted that you will be holding a hearing on the issue of US agricultural trade. The European Union is committed to an ambitious result in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, including in agriculture.

The European Union shares your view that in addition to tariffs, non-tariff barriers and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues should also be tackled to allow our respective food sectors to fully benefit from new market opportunities. To this end, we have engaged with the United States to negotiate an effective bilateral framework for SPS rules that facilitate trade while fully respecting food safety legislation on both sides. The EU agrees that science should form the basis for sanitary measures; accordingly we base our decisions in this area on scientific results provided by EU scientific agencies, and implement our measures transparently, in line with the EU legal processes.

On a related issue, there has recently been a renewed focus and debate on the European Union's negotiating objectives regarding the protection of geographical indications (GIs) for food products. Unfortunately, the discussion has included some inaccuracies regarding the EU position. With a view to contribute to the debate, I would like to request inclusion of the attached letter as part of the official record of June 11 Trade Subcommittee hearing. The letter was sent recently to House Dairy Caucus members to clarify the EU position on GIs.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'João Vale de Almeida'.

João Vale de Almeida
Ambassador

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